

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

VH/200,652

SERIAL NO.

● LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

APPLICANT

ROBERT RICHARD

FILING DATE

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA		4197827	4/1980	T.L. SMITH	124	78	
AB		4442823	4/1984	J.E. Floyd	124	78	
AC		4632088	12/1986	N.R. BRUCE	124	78	
AD		4712534	12/1987	F. NOZATO	124	78	
AE		4760835	8/1988	K.K. PAULSON	124	78	
AF		5832909	11/1998	E.J.P. GRANT	124	6	
AG		6182649	2/2001	G.J. BATTERSBY	124	78	
AH							
AI							
AJ							
AK							
AL							
AM							
AN							
AO							

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
AP								
AQ								

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AR								
AS								

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

● Appn. Number: DOCKET # VH/200,652
Appn. Filed: -HEREWITH
Applicant(s): U. ROBERT RICHARD
Appn. Title: "IMPETUS-MODIFYING THRUST-WHEELS for BALL-pitching MACHINES"
Examiner/GAU: _____

● Date Mailed: 1/14/2003
Sent At: SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

● Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon.

Following are comments on these references pursuant to Rule 98:

- A. SMITH: -shows a typical bi-laterally opposed pair of Thruster-wheels having an elastomeric perimeter portion formed with a circumferential groove, whereby the lip like lateral lips act to grip the ball better.
- B. FLOYD: -shows a baseball pitching-machine exemplifying the extremes of which are employed toward achieving a variety of pitched ball characteristics; -very costly but thruster-wheels conventional.
- C. BRUCE: -shows a bi-laterally opposed pair of thruster-wheels, which can be shifted longitudinally relative to one another as to thereby effect a finitely variable difference from a straight pitch.
- D. NOZATO: -shows a primary and a secondary pair of thruster-wheels, whereby the aftward primary two opposed wheels serve to initially accelerate the ball, whereupon the secondary wheels include a nipping-groove for thrusting the ball differentially by varying the wheel RPMs.
- E. PAULSON: -shows a pair of bi-laterally opposed thruster-wheels having flat-faced tire surfaces, which can be reoriented about the axis of projection relative to an L-shaped feed-chute, plus the wheel-RPM can be varied; -thereby enabling a variety of balls to be pitched.
- F. GRANT: -shows a single thruster-wheel ball-pitching-machine having a large high-RPM wheel with a flat tire-surface; the single wheel being re-oriented about the axis of projection as to achieve biasing of pitches in different sectors of the batter's strike-zone.
- G. BATTERSBY -shows a tri-wheeled pitching-machine exemplifying the resorting to employing complex computer-programable controls by which to achieve a variety of ball-pitches via otherwise flat-faced thruster-wheels.

→ COMMENTARY: -Applicant's Patent-Search revealed no prior-art anticipating the use of high-spots or low-spots on the faces of the thruster-wheels by which to attain a variety of pitch biases relative to the batter's strike-zone. The only prior-art uses of non-flat faced thruster-wheels are variously grooved wheel-surfaces serving to provide greater thrust velocity.

BY APPLICANT:

J. Robert Richard